

What is claimed is:

1. A signal processing apparatus comprising:
  - a plurality of input ports that receive signals from 5 a plurality of external devices;
  - a control signal transmitting device that transmits control signals to the external devices;
  - a plurality of input channels to which are input signals from respective ones of the external devices 10 associated with respective ones of said input ports when the respective ones of said input ports are connected to the respective ones of the external devices;
  - a plurality of predetermined operating elements associated with respective ones of said input channels, 15 said predetermined operating elements being capable of controlling the external devices transmitting the control signals from said control signal transmitting device;
  - a connection state setting device that sets connections between said input ports and said input 20 channels; and
  - a control target determining device that determines one of the external devices to be controlled by each of said predetermined operating elements based on the connections set by said connection state setting device.
- 25 2. A signal processing apparatus according to claim 1,  
wherein said connection state setting device is capable of changing the connections between said input ports and said input channels, and
- 30 wherein in a first mode, said control target determining device selects one of the external devices to be controlled by each of said predetermined operating elements based on the connections set by said connection state setting device, and in a second mode, when said 35 connection state setting device changes the connections,

said control target determining device selects one of the external devices to be controlled by each of said predetermined operating elements, that was selected before said connection state setting device changes the  
5 connections.

3. A signal processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said control target determining device selects one of the external devices associated with one of said input ports connected, by said connection state  
10 setting device, to one of said input channels corresponding to one of said predetermined operating elements that is operated, as an external device to be controlled by the operated operating element.

4. A signal processing apparatus according to claim 3, further comprising a display that displays a screen for prompting an output setting for each of said input ports when said control target determining device selects the external device to be controlled by each of  
15 said predetermined operating elements.

20 5. A signal processing apparatus comprising:  
a plurality of input ports that receive signals from a plurality of external devices;

a control signal transmitting device that transmits control signals to the external devices;  
25 a plurality of input channels to which are input signals from respective ones of the external devices associated with respective ones of said input ports when the respective ones of said input ports are connected to the respective ones of the external devices;

30 a plurality of predetermined operating elements associated with respective ones of said input channels, said predetermined operating elements being capable of controlling the external devices transmitting the control signals from said control signal transmitting device;

35 a connection state setting device that sets

connections between said input ports and said input channels; and

a mode setting device that selectively sets a first mode in which one of the external devices to be

- 5 controlled by each of said predetermined operating elements is selected based on the connections set by said connection state setting device, and a second mode in which said input channels are associated with arbitrary ones of the external devices and one of the external  
10 devices associated with one of the input channels corresponding to one of the predetermined operating elements that is operated is selected as an external device to be controlled by the operated predetermined operating element.

- 15 6. A signal processing apparatus according to claim 5, wherein in said first mode, one of the external devices associated with one of the input ports connected, by said connection state setting device, to one of the input channels corresponding to one of the predetermined  
20 operating element that is operated is selected as an external device to be controlled by the operated predetermined operating element.

7. A signal processing apparatus according to claim 5, further comprising a display that displays a screen, and wherein the display displays a screen for prompting an output setting for each of the input ports if said mode setting device sets the first mode and displays a screen for prompting an output setting for each of the input channels if said mode setting device  
30 sets the second mode.

8. A control program executable by a computer to control a signal processing apparatus comprising a plurality of input ports that receive signals from a plurality of external devices, a control signal transmitting device that transmits control signals to the  
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- external devices, a plurality of input channels to which are input signals from respective ones of the external devices associated with respective ones of said input ports when the respective ones of said input ports are
- 5 connected to the respective ones of the external devices, and a plurality of predetermined operating elements associated with respective ones of said input channels, said predetermined operating elements being capable of controlling the external devices transmitting the control
- 10 signals from said control signal transmitting device, the program comprising:
- a connection state setting module for setting connections between said input ports and said input channels; and
- 15 a control target determining module for determining determines one of the external devices to be controlled by each of said predetermined operating elements based on the connections set by said connection state setting module.
- 20 9. A control program executable by a computer to control a signal processing apparatus comprising a plurality of input ports that receive signals from a plurality of external devices, a control signal transmitting device that transmits control signals to the
- 25 external devices, a plurality of input channels to which are input signals from respective ones of the external devices associated with respective ones of said input ports when the respective ones of said input ports are connected to the respective ones of the external devices,
- 30 and a plurality of predetermined operating elements associated with respective ones of said input channels, said predetermined operating elements being capable of controlling the external devices transmitting the control signals from said control signal transmitting device, the
- 35 program comprising:

a connection state setting module for setting connections between said input ports and said input channels; and

- 5 a mode setting module for selectively setting a  
first mode in which one of the external devices to be  
controlled by each of said predetermined operating  
elements is selected based on the connections set by said  
connection state setting module, and a second mode in  
which said input channels are associated with arbitrary  
10 ones of the external devices and one of the external  
devices associated with one of the input channels  
corresponding to one of the predetermined operating  
elements that is operated is selected as an external  
device to be controlled by the operated predetermined  
15 operating element.